



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 8, 2016

Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
Phone: (601) 359-1163
E-mail: paige@mdac.ms.gov

Agriculture Commissioner Hyde-Smith Named to Class of the Country's Top Outstanding Political Female Leaders

The Governing Institute has named Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith to its Women in Leadership Class of 2017. This leadership program brings together outstanding elected women leaders from across the nation to acknowledge their contributions, provide leadership development, and to mentor the next generation of women leaders to run for office. Commissioner Hyde-Smith is one of 25 women selected for this honor. The class was selected based on career and educational accomplishments, recommendations, a commitment to actively participate, and the goal of seating a diverse class in a number of categories. The Governing Institute established this program to encourage and support women in government.

Commissioner Hyde-Smith was elected as Mississippi's Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce in 2011, and she is currently serving her second term in office. She is the first woman to hold this statewide position in the state. Prior to serving as the Ag Commissioner, Hyde-Smith represented District 39 in the Mississippi State Senate for 12 years. While serving as Senator, she was the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee for eight years.

###

Photo attached.

